EML Accent

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English and Modern Languages Newsletter

## Brooms Up, Mounties!

–By Taylor Donahue

The Mansfield University **Fire Ferrets** Quidditch Team, founded this past fall semester, have taken the pitch--with big goals in mind. Founded by English majors **Courtney Wark and Taylor Donahue**, the **Fire Ferrets** are one of the newest teams in the **International Quidditch Association.** Though the sport may have been derived from fiction, the dedication, athleticism, and injuries are not--especially not in the **Quidditch World Cup**.

'Real' quidditch, sometimes called 'muggle' quidditch or 'ground' quidditch, was founded in 2007 at Middlebury College in Vermont. The sport spread from there, with more than 225 official teams registered with the International Quidditch Association (IQA), and over a thousand unofficial teams playing matches around the world. These teams are spread across the United States, Australia, France, and the United Kingdom--with new teams beginning to crop up in Italy, Mexico, and China as well.

There a have been several adaptations made from the fictional game to make the real sport more playable. A new, official rule

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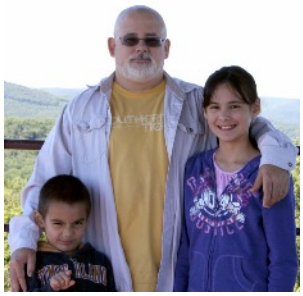
## Meet Dr. Brad Lint

***Editor's note:*** *Last spring Dr. Brad Lint was hired to teach composition and world literature, particularly Chinese literature, for the English side of English and Modern Languages. This fall was his first semester at Mansfield.*

***EML Accent:*** You've spent several years living abroad, what was that like?

**Dr. Lint:** Although it's not exactly in your guidance counselor's book of career options, after college, I sold everything I owned, put on a backpack, and moved to Taiwan to study Chinese. I originally planned to go for six Months but ended up staying sixteen years. During that time, I studied Chinese intensively, taught English, studied Northern Shaolin and Seven Star Mantis kung fu as well as tai chi, and did some unusual things like voiceover work, singing and playing guitar in an aborigine pub, hosting game shows, and playing a priest in a soap opera. I also traveled in China, trekked in the Nepal Himalayas, spent time in the islands and jungles of Thailand, and visited Japan and Korea several times. On trips back here, I even made it to France and Germany as well as to the Caribbean.

***EML Accent:*** What made you decide to be an English professor?



**Dr. Lint:** Believe it or not, I started out in political science. Once I finished my major requirements, I figured I'd spend my senior year taking "easy" gen eds. Boy did I ever get that wrong. I took some very challenging courses -- like modern drama and Chinese literature -- that were incredibly rewarding and completely changed my life. While traveling, there's a lot of downtime on the road, and everywhere I went, people traded books. I read voraciously and devoured every "classic" of literature I could lay my hands on, as well as the works of many non-canonical writers I'd never heard of. I also got to see firsthand how much writing people do in all walks of life, and how important it is to be able to write clearly and effectively. I taught English for ten years

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Please, send news, announcements, and contributions to:

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## Brooms Up, Mounties!

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book is released every year, accommodating new challenges as the sport grows in size and level of competition. For example, the snitch--often played by a distance runner or wrestler wearing a detachable snitch tail on the back of gold shorts--is worth thirty points instead of the one-hundred and fifty described in the book. There are also three bludgers (partially deflated eight-inch dodgeballs) to facilitate beater play for both teams. The quaffle, a partially-deflated volleyball, is still worth ten points.

One aspect of the sport remains unchanged: the use of broomsticks. Each of the seven players on the pitch are mounted on wooden, PVC, or plastic brooms, depending on their preference. When beaters 'beat' other players, they must dismount from their brooms, run back to their home hoops, and touch them before re-mounting. Accidental dismounts also result in a trip back to the hoops. This aspect of the sport draws the most response from spectators.

"Most people ask us how we fly," says seeker Sean Bergold. "They don't ask how we play without flying, and that's funny."

The Fire Ferrets have made big leaps for a first-semester team. In November, four Fire Ferret players (Ben Manning, David Kutsch, Ally Phillips, and Taylor Donahue) attended the Mid-Atlantic Regional Cup in Leesburg, Virginia, where they played as members of the Red Cedar River Monsters. The River Monsters, a mercenary or MERC team composed of players from Michigan State University, Georgetown, the University of Maryland, and Mansfield, went 0-5 at the tournament, but not for lack of trying. "Each game was so close," says freshman chaser Ally Phillips. "We were literally a snitch grab away for most of them." At the tournament, each player from Mansfield scored goals--an almost unheard of feat for a player's first tournament.

The Fire Ferrets are training for the team's participation in next year's Mid-Atlantic Regional, where they hope to earn a bid for World Cup VIII. In the fall, the Fire Ferrets held practices six times a week: two team practices on the weekends, and position practices during the week. In the Spring, the Ferrets will ramp up their practice efforts to include weekly conditioning, position practices, and Friday night team practices in South Hall Mall in addition to their weekend team practices. The Ferrets will also perform morning runs, on brooms, across campus.

The team is not all work, however. "We've bonded so well," says Shelby Dunning, a chaser and beater for the Fire Ferrets. "our team is practically a family. I love quidditch; it gives me the opportunity to be a part of a team while still being my nerdy self." In addition to scrimmaging at practices, the Fire Ferrets regularly play games like Ultimate Quaffle (similar to Ultimate Frisbee) and Trashketball (a dodgeball-style game that hones beater play). The Fire Ferrets are also dedicated Gaga ball players, which they use for conditioning.

As with any full-contact, co-ed, or collision sport (quidditch being a combination of all three), injuries are not unheard of. Ben Manning, who played at Mid-Atlantic Regionals, received thirty stitches in the face after a collision with a player from Duke University. "I was mad because I tackled him really well, but I was bleeding, so they made me get off the pitch. He scored, too, which made it worse." Quidditch injuries or "quinjuries" are often the running joke at a hospital after

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### Sigma Tau Delta

Mansfield's local chapter of Sigma Tau Delta, the international English honor society, offers high-achieving students an opportunity to participate in academic, extracurricular, and community service endeavors that enrich the students in a variety of ways. Membership includes opportunities to apply for scholarships, attend and present work at conferences, and publish work in the organization's scholarly and creative journals.

In order to qualify for membership, students must be enrolled at Mansfield as an English major, an English minor, or a creative writing minor. They must also achieve a 3.3 grade point average and have completed at least three semesters of college.

This January, Sigma Tau Delta is planning a Movie Night activity to recruit new members. Time and date to be announced. For more information, contact the advisor, Dr. Andrea Harris, at aharris@mansfield.edu Her office is 107 Belknap Hall.

## Eulogy for Kristin Sanner

–Louise Sullivan-Blum

Although Kristin joined our Department in 2004, she and I didn't become truly close until after her diagnosis, two years later. I want to tell you about the Kristin I knew: what she looked like and how she carried herself, and how she moved through the part of the world that she shared with me.

She was beautiful. More than that—radiant. Dressing was an art for her, and she did it with style. She prepared herself for every day of work. She prided herself on her outfits. She loved scarves and colors. We sometimes shopped together. She knew the secrets of dressing well – the art of it – and shared them with me. "You can loop a scarf this way," she told me, demonstrating, "though Isaac sometimes calls this 'walking the dog.'" The side effects of chemo only posed a challenge. She looked good every day. Great clothes, great glasses, great hair – even her wig looked great. I frequently forgot to ask her how she was. If anything, her beauty deepened.

She wore her heels with glee, and mourned them when she had to give them up. She once said on Facebook that the first thing she noticed about a person was their shoes. "Does Zoe like heels?" she asked me once. "Oh, I hope she likes heels!" She shared make-up tips with me during chemo. "They have a specialist here you can meet with," she confided, then leaned closer. "See what I've done with my eyebrows?" It was only then that I realized that they'd gone the way of her hair. She was a master of presentation.

She was wicked in her wit. Nothing was sacred. Her delivery was droll, the administration—of course—a frequent target. The metaphors flew. We'd write each other notes during department meetings like kids in third grade. She had a smile like no one else, except, of course, for Isaac. I look at Isaac and I see that smile. She loved to gossip, but she knew how to keep secrets. She never betrayed a confidence.

She was a person who paid attention to things: to her friends, to her family, to her surroundings. She was exacting and demanding: of her students, her colleagues, her friends,

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## Dr. Kristin Sanner

December 14, 1968- August 13, 2013

The Mansfield University community, particularly the Department of English and Modern Languages and the Women's Studies Program, mourns the loss of Associate Professor Dr. Kristin Sanner on August 13, 2013. Dr. Sanner fought a long struggle against breast cancer, teaching through the spring 2013 semester because of her dedication to and love for her students.

Prior to coming to Mansfield in 2004, Kristin Sanner received her B.A. from the Pennsylvania State University, her M.A. from the University of Scranton, and her Ph.D. from Binghamton University. She made her mark in the field of nineteenth-century American literature with a wide range of publications and international presentations on Henry James and Emily Dickinson. While at Mansfield, Dr. Sanner reinstated the English Honor Society, Sigma Tau Delta, and devoted much time to it. She taught Many courses, including Survey of American Literature I and II, American Romanticism and Transcendentalism, American Realism and Naturalism, and a major genre course in poetry. Her wit, intelligence, and sense of humor brought life to her department. She will also be missed by the English majors, especially her advisees, who benefitted from her kindness and dedication. She also leaves behind her husband Bill Walker and son Isaac.

Because of her love of nature, the students of Sigma Tau Delta are raising funds to build a peaceful spot near Belknap and Retan with a bench and a flowering tree in her honor.

(Continued from page 3) and, I imagine, her family. She had little patience for people who didn't make the effort, and she admired the rebellious.

She liked strong personalities. She was not to be messed with. And when she loved you, it meant something, and it was not something to be taken lightly.

She was so damned stubborn. She refused to stop teaching, refused to cut herself a break, finally conceding to take a medical leave for fall semester less than a month before she died.

She was single-minded in everything she did. When she was with you, she was with you, and if she didn't have time to talk, she let you know it. She was just as single minded in her teaching, bringing students back again and again to the subject at hand: the study of literature. She did the same with her colleagues—she kept us on task. "Can we get back to the agenda?" she'd say, when our department meetings began, as they inevitably did, to sprawl out of control. She wouldn't join a committee she couldn't chair.

She was single-minded in her approach to her disease as well. She was always in control of everything around her—even her cancer. The first time I visited her during chemo, early in her treatment, she questioned everything the nurses did, what they were putting into her body, how many ccs, did she really need the fluids, etc. She was on top of her scans, her biopsies, her surgeries. Her tests, her tumor markers, her levels. She researched treatment options, discussed them with her doctors, challenged them when necessary. When one oncologist failed to treat her with sufficient aggressiveness, she fired him.

During those first long treatments, she introduced me to "Quiddler," her word game of choice at the time. We played round after round; Kristin was determined to win. Even after the chemo bag had been drained, Kristin still kept playing. "Stay as long as you want," the nurses told us, and we did. She refused to accept the idea that she might lose.

She was tough and opinionated, and she was not afraid to be angry, and to stand up for herself. She said she didn't like the metaphor of cancer being a "courageous battle," but she made it one anyway. Each chemo drug was a new weapon. She referred to Xeloda as a "cancer killer"; Gemzar she called a "bejeweled superhero." Just as she did with everything else in her life, she fought hard and she refused to give up.

On one of my last visits to her at her home, we took a slow walk down the path outside her house. The honeysuckle was in full bloom; the air was heavy with the smell of it. I'd always wanted to plant one, but had been told it was invasive. "Only when it's wild," she said. "When it's wild, it's invasive." She stopped and gestured around us, where bush after bush had replicated itself. An uncontrollable expanse of honeysuckle, everywhere we looked.

Nothing's a metaphor till after the fact. Her cancer, of course, was her own cells gone wild. Something beautiful, become invasive.

In her *Chronicle* article, Kristin wrote:

"We read and study literature … because it helps us understand how to live and how to die. It shows us how to persevere in the face of adversity, how to reach into our personal depths and find both meaning and will. It reminds us of the dichotomous fragility and tenacity of earthly living. It also teaches us how to care for those who suffer."

I cannot think of a more fitting epitaph for Kristin herself. She taught us, too, all the way to the end.

## Meet Dr. Brad Lint

(Continued from page 1) before deciding to go to graduate school then I came back and forth to the US for several years to complete my Ph.D. I moved back to the States six years ago, hoping that I can bring some of the world, not to mention different perspectives on things American, into college classrooms here.

***EML Accent:*** What are your favorite classes to teach?

**Dr. Lint:** If I had to pick a few favorites, I'd say World Literature (esp. Asian and Chinese), Early American Literature, and Film. Quite honestly, though, I love all the classes I teach!

***EML Accent:*** If you could teach a new class here at Mansfield, what would it be?

**Dr. Lint:** Hmm, perhaps Irish Literature. I have a longstanding love of Beckett, Behan, Doyle, Friel, Gregory, Joyce, O'Brien (Flann and Edna), O'Casey, Synge, Yeats, and others. Considering all the storytelling in traditional ballads and how influential Irish music has been, I think it would be great to teach some music as well and even introduce an example or two of Irish cinema. Other course options might be Asian American Literature or Buddhism and Literature.

***EML Accent:*** Why do you have pillows on the floor of your office?

**Dr. Lint:** They are there as a temporary fix until I get another zabuton and zafu (cushions traditionally used in Zen meditation). I've had a meditation practice for several years, ever since I studied at Dharma Drum Mountain. I became certified to teach meditation two years ago, and I helped organize and advise a meditation group where I previously taught. I meditate daily, so when I'm not in class or holding office hours, I regularly take a few minutes to sit and clear my mind. Interestingly, Mansfield is not far from a number of famous meditation centers, all of which offer introductory classes: the Rochester Zen Center, Namgyal Monastery in Ithaca (the Dalai Lama's North American headquarters), Zen Mountain Monastery, and Blue Cliff Monastery in Pine Bush, NY.

***EML Accent:*** Is it true you used to have a Mohawk?

**Dr. Lint:** The problem wasn't so much when I skinned the sides, but when I peroxided it at about six inches so I could grow it out to a foot and have a two-color Mohawk. I used too much peroxide, so it turned out like corn silk, then it all fell out in the middle, leaving me two spikes in the front and back. I shaved it off and grew my hair long before deciding it was easier just to skin the whole thing. I still wear my jacket on occasion, but my Mad Max Doc Martens don't fit like they used to. I regularly pull my old vinyl out, though, even though most people today have never heard of the bands we used to listen to, see, and/or hang out with, like Discharge, Black Flag, Agnostic Front, Fang, Minutemen, Husker Du, GBH, No Trend, Subhumans, Faith, Flipper, Government Issue, Minor Threat, Rites of Spring, 7 Seconds, DRI, Corrosion of Conformity, Dr. Know, The Necros, Bad Brains, Marginal Man, etc.

***EML Accent:*** What do you like about Mansfield?

**Dr. Lint:** I'm delighted to be working with a wonderful group of people, and I've been very impressed by the caliber of Mansfield students. They have incredible resources and opportunities here, both in academics and in extracurricular activities. The university is also in a great location among the beautiful mountains around Mansfield, and I've found there's no lack of things to do. When I'm out and about, I love hiking in Pine Creek Gorge, watching the stars at Cherry Springs State Park (reportedly the darkest skies east of the Mississippi), and visiting the Finger Lakes and waterfalls around Ithaca. I also like the coffee cart in Retan. ☺

***EML Accent:*** What's your favorite food?

**Dr. Lint:** I've been vegan for about a year, and my favorite dish would be a toss-up between Thai green curry tofu and stir-fried eggplant with chili and holy basil. I also eat a lot of kale and oatmeal, though rarely together.
**EML Accent:** Thank you, Dr. Lint, and welcome to Mansfield University.

## Celebrations

Congratulations to English majors, **Cameron Murphy**, **Courtney Wark**, and English alum, **Christina Stopka Rinnert**, who will be traveling to Savannah, Georgia, in February for the Sigma Tau Delta International English Honor Society Conference. Cameron and Courtney will be delivering their papers and Christina will be reading her poetry.

Congratulations to English major, **Rachel Sterling**, who was honored as Mansfield's Outstanding English Major at the English Association of Pennsylvania State Universities fall 2013

## Brooms Up, Mounties!

(Continued from page 2) quidditch players are brought in. "The guy stitching me up asked me how far I fell off my broom," Manning says.

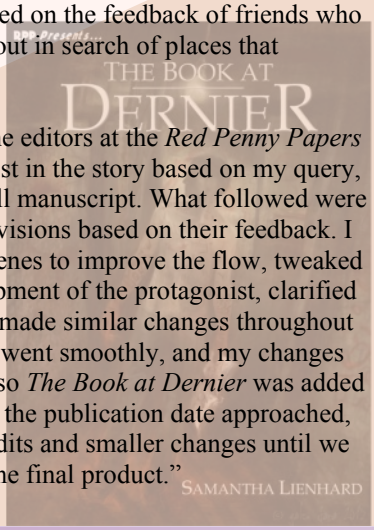
The team, which is composed of students from a variety of majors, love the sport--but have a variety of reasons for playing. Some play for the camaraderie: "I like quidditch because it gave me a place to be at college," says Ally Phillips. Chris Martin, the secretary of the executive board, plays for the novelty. "I participate in quidditch because it isn't a normal sport," says Martin. While all players have different reasons for joining and staying, the creative and competitive nature of quidditch is a commonality that is core to all of the Fire Ferrets.

*Students interesting in watching the Fire Ferrets of joining the team should see the Club Sports page on the Kelchner Fitness Center website, or find the Fire Ferrets on Facebook or Twitter. Spring Semester team practices will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays in the field behind KFC, and Friday night at 7:00 p.m. in South Hall Mall.*

## Graduate News:

*Recent English and Creative Writing Program graduate Samantha Lienhart finished her 5-part serial novella, The Book at Dernier. This Lovecraftian horror story ( about dark secrets, mysterious cults, blood rituals, and a scholar who becomes ensnared at the center of it all) can be read free online at Red Penny Papers.*

"I wrote *The Book at Dernier* at the height of my obsession with H.P. Lovecraft and *Silent Hill*, both of which pulled me back into the realm of horror and influenced my story. Once I was done, I edited it, further revised it based on the feedback of friends who read it, and then set out in search of places that published novellas.




In 2011, the editors at the *Red Penny Papers* first expressed interest in the story based on my query, so I sent them the full manuscript. What followed were several months of revisions based on their feedback. I altered and added scenes to improve the flow, tweaked the character development of the protagonist, clarified the time period, and made similar changes throughout the story. All of that went smoothly, and my changes were to their liking, so *The Book at Dernier* was added to their schedule. As the publication date approached, we worked on line edits and smaller changes until we were satisfied with the final product."

## Sabbatical News:

**John Ulrich** is taking a year-long sabbatical to finish writing annotations on the essays of Victorian writer Thomas Carlyle for the University of California Press.

**Jimmy Guignard** spent a semester sabbatical leave during the Fall 2013 semester writing his book, *Words/Matter: Teaching, Writing, and Living above the Marcellus Shale*. He spent two weeks as a writing resident at Madroño Ranch: A Center for Writing, Art, and the Environment in Medina, Texas.

Regarding his sabbatical for fall 2013, Jimmy Guignard wrote:

> I wrote a lot. I am writing a book called *Words/Matter: Teaching, Writing, and Living above the Marcellus Shale*, which is about teaching, writing, and living above the Marcellus shale. It's also about rhetoric, particularly how the ways words get used in the public sphere shape the way people see a place and use that place. I'm not satisfied with the title.

According to Jimmy Guignard his sabbatical has looked like this:

> Get the kids off to school, read a bit, formulate a plan for the day's writing, and write. Draft a chapter. Then revise, usually several times. Then send the draft to readers. Start working on the next chapter.
>
> On occasion, I wander around the yard or ride my bike, trying to imagine how different structures might work or to figure out how to say what I want to say. Some good ideas have emerged while I have been cooking dinner. Or trying to sleep.

Referring to his residence at Madroño Ranch:

> I spent two weeks there. No phone. No TV. No people. The only distractions were bison, wild turkeys, wild pigs, and the sandstone outcrops of the Texas hill country. I wrote all day every day in a cabin about twice the size of Thoreau's. I lived on coffee, beer, bison steaks, and words. By the end of the two weeks, my capacity for coming up decent analogies had gone to hell, but I cranked out some decent prose.

**Louise Sullivan-Blum** will begin her spring 2014 sabbatical with an eight week writing residency fellowship at the prestigious MacDowell Colony in New Hampshire. It's chilly in New Hampshire this time of year, but Prof. Sullivan-Blum is staying in the same cabin that James Baldwin used when he was writing his novel, *Giovanni's Room,* at MacDowell. Congratulations, Louise. We look forward to reading the novel you're writing.

## Faculty Spotlight:

With scholars Dr. Edda Samudio (Universidad de los Andes, Venezuela) Dr. Lucia Lionetti (Universidad Nacional de Buenos Aires, Argentina), and Dr. Lia Faria (Universidade do Estado do Rio de Janeiro, Brasil), **Prof. Fanny Arango-Keeth** co-organized and coordinated the third thematic unit "Instituciones, espacios privados y públicos" for the First International Congress: *Women in the Independence Processes of Latin America*. As a result of a three year research program sponsored by UNESCO, the congress took place in Lima, Peru in August last year. Dr. Arango-Keeth's article "Discurso libertario e imaginario político en *Violetas del Anáhuac* y en *Los Andes*" will appear in the book *Las mujeres en la independencia de América Latina*. She was also invited to be in the Executive Committee of the international research group *Escritoras latinoamericanas del diecinueve* (http://www.eladd.org/).

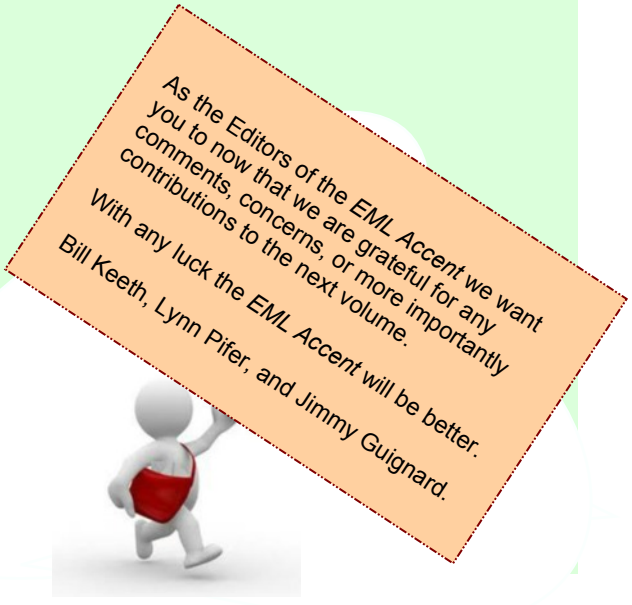
Prof. **Teri Doerksen's** article,"A National Bildungsroman: Didacticism and National Identity in Mary Brunton's *Discipline* and Susan Edmonstone Ferrier's *Marriage*," will be published in an upcoming Pickering and Chatto anthology about Didactic Women's Writing in the long 18th century. In November, Prof. Doerksen presented a paper called "'Penetration: The Musical': Teaching the Gothic and Permeating Student Culture" at the East Central American Society for 18th Century Studies conference in Philadelphia. On October 18, 2013,

Prof. **Lilace Mellin Guignard** and recently retired Prof. **Judith Sornberger** gave a poetry reading at Gmeiner Art & Cultural Center in Wellsboro to raise money for HAVEN in honor of Domestic Violence Awareness month. **Lilace Mellin Guignard's** recent poetry publications include "The Queen's Knight" in *Still Point Arts Quarterly* (Summer 2013) and "The Darkness" in the anthology *Facing the Change: Personal Encounters with Global Warming*, Torrey House Press 2013. "The Darkness" will also appear in the next issue of *Louisiana Literature* along with "Packing Up My Parents' House."

Prof. **William Keeth** presented the research paper "La poesía de la generación del 50: una revisión" at the Sixth Congress of the Asociación Internacional de Peruanistas en el Extranjero held in Georgetown University in October, 2013. His article "La metapoética de la generación del 50" will appear in the May-June 2014 issue of the referred journal *Revista de crítica literaria latinoamericana*. A second article, "La segunda novela de Gamaliel Churata: identidad andina y el tejido intertextual" will appear in the book *Imperios y naciones del Perú. Traslaciones y recomposiciones* to be published by the University of Montreal press this year.

Prof. **John Ulrich's** article, "Carlyle's *Chartism* and the Politics of the (In)Articulate," appears in the latest issue of *Studies in the Literary Imagination*, a special issue focusing on the works of the nineteenth-century Scottish author Thomas Carlyle.

Welcome Back to Professors **Monique Oyallon** and **Fanny Arango-Keeth**. We missed you and are glad to have you back in our department.


As the Editors of the EML Accent we want you to now that we are grateful for any comments, concerns, or more importantly contributions to the next volume.
With any luck the EML Accent will be better.
Bill Keeth, Lynn Pifer, and Jimmy Guignard.